

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 42 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Additionally, please amend claims 1, 13, 16, 18, 24, 34, 37, and 41 to read as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A medical laser system, comprising:
 - a laser device operable to generate laser radiation;
 - a light guide operable to guide the generated laser radiation;
 - a mounting device operable to releasably couple the light guide to the laser device;
 - a transponder coupled to the light guide and comprising a readable and writable data medium operable to store identity data and specific data, the transponder being coupled to the light guide such that the transponder cannot be removed from the light guide without damaging the transponder; and
 - a transmitter coupled to the laser device and operable to contactlessly transmit the specific data to the transponder, the specific data comprising information regarding each use of the light guide in conjunction with the laser device,
 - wherein the transponder is configured to store the specific data and the identity data such that the specific data and the identity data cannot be deleted, overwritten, or modified. it cannot delete, overwrite, or modify the stored specific data or identity data.

2. (Previously Presented) The medical laser system of claim 1, further comprising a readout device coupled to the laser device and operable to read the identity data from the transponder for use by the laser device.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The medical laser system of claim 1, wherein the identity data comprises information about at least one of a manufacturer of the light guide, an end date of use of the light guide, a transmission of the light guide, a type designation of the light guide, a maximum transmission power of the light guide, and a fiber diameter of the light guide.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The medical laser system of claim 1, wherein the laser device is operable to generate laser radiation only when the transmitter has a data connection to the data medium.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The medical laser system of claim 1, wherein the information regarding each use of the light guide comprises information about at least one of a laser energy passed to the light guide, a number of treatments with the light guide, a date of the treatment with the light guide, and an identification of the laser device.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The medical laser system of claim 1, further comprising an evaluation device operable to read and evaluate the identity data and the specific data.

13. (Currently Amended) The medical laser system of claim 1, wherein the identity data and the specific data are ~~saved~~stored in encrypted form in the data medium thereby preventing the specific data and the identity data from being deleted, overwritten, or modified.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The medical laser system of claim 1, wherein the transponder is coupled to the light guide by being coupled to the mounting device by at least one of encapsulation, welding, and gluing.

16. (Currently Amended) The medical laser system of claim 1, wherein the mounting device ~~is~~ comprises one of a plug, a screw, and a bayonet connection.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A light guide system, comprising:

a light guide operable to guide laser radiation and configured to be releasably coupled to a laser device via a mounting device; and

a transponder comprising a readable and writable data medium operable to store identity data and specific data, ~~the transponder being coupled to the light guide such that the transponder cannot be removed from the light guide without damaging the transponder, and the specific data comprising information received from the laser device regarding each use of the light guide in conjunction with the laser device,~~

wherein the transponder is configured to store the specific data and the identity data such that the specific data and the identity data cannot be deleted, overwritten, or modified. it cannot delete, overwrite, or modify the stored specific data or identity data.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The light guide system of claim 18, wherein the identity data comprises information about at least one of a manufacturer of the light guide, an end date for usage of the light guide, a transmission of the light guide, a type designation of the light guide, a maximum transmission power of the light guide, and a fiber diameter of the light guide.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The light guide system of claim 18, wherein the information regarding each use of the light guide comprises information about at least one of a laser energy passed to the light guide, a number of treatments with the light guide, a date for the treatment with the light guide, and an identification of the laser device.

24. (Currently Amended) The light guide system of claim 18, wherein the identity data and the specific data are ~~saved~~stored in encrypted form in the data medium thereby preventing the specific data and the identity data from being deleted, overwritten, or modified.

25. (Previously Presented) The light guide system of claim 18, further comprising the mounting device, wherein the mounting device comprises a material that essentially does not shield electromagnetic radiation in a frequency range of a transmission and reception range of the transponder; and

wherein the transponder is configured to be coupled to the light guide by being coupled to the mounting device.

26. (Previously Presented) The light guide system of claim 25, wherein the mounting device comprises plastic.

27. (Previously Presented) The light guide system of claim 25, wherein the light guide is essentially inseparably coupled to the mounting device and wherein the transponder is welded to the mounting device.

28. (Previously Presented) The light guide system of claim 25, wherein the light guide is essentially inseparably coupled to the mounting device and the transponder is glued to the mounting device.

29. (Previously Presented) The light guide system of claim 25, wherein the light guide is essentially inseparably coupled to the mounting device and the transponder is encapsulated in the mounting device.

30. (Original) The light guide system of claim 18, wherein the light guide is an expendable light guide.

31. (Previously Presented) The medical laser system of claim 1, further comprising an alert device operable to generate an alert in response to a determination that at least a portion of the stored specific data exceeds a threshold.

32. (Previously Presented) The medical laser system of claim 31, further comprising a display device operable to display the generated alert.

33. (Previously Presented) The medical laser system of claim 1, wherein the laser device is configured to generate laser radiation only in response to a determination that the stored specific data does not exceed a threshold.

34. (Currently Amended) A medical laser system, comprising:
a laser device operable to generate laser radiation;
a light guide releasably coupled to the laser device via a mounting device and operable to guide the generated laser radiation;
a transponder coupled to the light guide and comprising a readable and writable data medium operable to store identity data and specific data, the specific data comprising information regarding each use of the light guide in conjunction with the laser device ~~the transponder being coupled to the light guide such that the transponder cannot be removed from the light guide without damaging the transponder;~~ and
a transmitter operable to contactlessly transmit the specific data to the transponder, ~~the specific data comprising information regarding each use of the light guide in conjunction with the laser device,~~
wherein the transponder is configured to store the transmitted specific data as a new data set and to apply encryption to the new data set, thus preventing any already stored specific data from being deleted, overwritten, or modified.

35. (Previously Presented) The medical laser system of claim 34, wherein the identity data comprises information about at least one of a manufacturer of the light guide, an end date of

use of the light guide, a transmission of the light guide, a type designation of the light guide, a maximum transmission power of the light guide, and a fiber diameter of the light guide.

36. (Previously Presented) The medical laser system of claim 34, wherein the information regarding each use of the light guide comprises information about at least one of a laser energy passed to the light guide, a number of treatments with the light guide, a date of the treatment with the light guide, and an identification of the laser device.

37. (Currently Amended) The ~~light guide~~medical laser system of claim 34, ~~further comprising the mounting device,~~ wherein the transponder is coupled to the light guide by being coupled to the mounting device by at least one of encapsulation, welding, and gluing.

38. (Previously Presented) The medical laser system of claim 34, further comprising an alert device operable to generate an alert in response to a determination that at least a portion of the stored specific data exceeds a threshold.

39. (Previously Presented) The medical laser system of claim 38, further comprising a display device operable to display the generated alert.

40. (Previously Presented) The medical laser system of claim 34, wherein the laser device is configured to generate laser radiation only in response to a determination that the stored specific data does not exceed a threshold.

41. (Currently Amended) A medical laser system, comprising:

a laser device operable to generate laser radiation;

a light guide coupled to the laser device and operable to guide the generated laser radiation; and

a transponder coupled to the light guide, the transponder comprising a data medium operable to store identity data and specific data, ~~and the transponder being configured such that the specific data and the identity data cannot be deleted, overwritten, or modified. it cannot delete, overwrite, or modify the stored data.~~

42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) The medical laser system of claim 41, further comprising a transmitter operable to transmit the specific data to the transponder, the specific data comprising information regarding each use of the light guide in conjunction with the laser device.

44. (Previously Presented) The medical laser system of claim 43, wherein the transmitter is operable to contactlessly transmit the specific data to the transponder.

45. (Previously Presented) The medical laser system of claim 41, further comprising an alert device operable to generate an alert in response to a determination that at least a portion of the stored specific data exceeds an operation threshold.

46. (Previously Presented) The medical laser system of claim 45, further comprising a display device operable to display the generated alert.

47. (Previously Presented) The medical laser system of claim 41, wherein the laser device is configured to generate laser radiation only in response to a determination that the stored specific data does not exceed an operation threshold.